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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the statements adopted by the Central Election Committee (annex I) and Milli Majlis (Parliament) (annex II) of the Azerbaijan Republic in connection with the so-called "presidential elections" in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijan Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

[Original: Russian]

Statement of 15 August 1997 by the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan on the new so-called "elections of the President of the Nagorny Karabakh region" planned in the occupied territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region

According to a report disseminated by the mass media, there are plans for holding on 1 September 1997 in the occupied territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic new so-called "elections of the President of the Nagorny Karabakh region".

This provocative action by the Republic of Armenia, whose aim is to create a puppet regime in the occupied territory of the Azerbaijani Republic, is yet another manifestation of Armenia's display of shameless disregard for the basic principles adopted at the Lisbon Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 1996 and aimed at resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan states that the conduct of this activity at a time when an occupation regime is in existence in the territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic contradicts the basic principles and norms of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the decisions of the 1994 Budapest Summit meeting, the principles of the 1996 Summit meeting and the Constitution and legislation of the Azerbaijani Republic. As a result of the conduct of ethnic cleansing in the territory where the occupation regime has been established, more than 50,000 local inhabitants of Azerbaijani nationality were forcibly expelled.

Such provocative actions by the separatist leaders of the Armenians in Nagorny Karabakh, at a time when positive trends are emerging towards a just and decisive resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and the granting of broad autonomy to Nagorny Karabakh, once again demonstrate that the separatists, consolidating the results of the aggression committed against Azerbaijan, intend to nullify the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk group of OSCE and thereby to destroy the peacemaking process.

The Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan states that lawful State structures can be established in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic only after the decisive resolution of the conflict and the return of the Azerbaijani population which has been resettled to their places of permanent residence, and with their active participation.

The Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan states that the planned elections in the Nagorny Karabakh territory of the Azerbaijani Republic are unlawful, and their results will have no legal force.

The Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan calls on the international community to condemn the elections planned by the authorities of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian separatists in the Nagorny Karabakh region, and expresses the hope that the Co-Chairmen and members of the Minsk group will take the necessary steps to ensure that these elections do not take place.

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Statement of 16 August 1997 by the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan on the conduct of the new so-called "elections of the President of the Nagorny Karabakh region" planned in the occupied territories of the Nagorny Karabakh region

As is well known, there are plans for holding in the occupied territories of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic on 1 September 1997 new so-called "elections of the President of the Nagorny Karabakh region". This provocative action by the Republic of Armenia means the creation by any means of obstacles to a peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and open and blatant disregard for all the efforts made by prestigious international organizations in this direction.

The whole world is aware of the untiring and self-sacrificing activity of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, in recent years, aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. As a result, at the Lisbon Summit of OSCE 53 States supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the principles for a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict which has lasted for years and of the Nagorny Karabakh problem were defined, and major impetus was given to the peace process. The new Co-Chairmen of the Minsk group of OSCE put forward fruitful proposals for the signing of a major political agreement. Yet another successful démarche of Azerbaijan's diplomacy, and its great triumph, was the visit by the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, to the United States of America, his meeting with the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton, and the important documents signed in the White House.

Undoubtedly, the emergence of the Azerbaijani Republic into the international arena and its achievements in domestic and foreign policy have aroused fear in the Republic of Armenia and among its protectors.

The Armenian nationalists and the forces which support them, seeing that the just position of Azerbaijan has received support in prestigious international organizations and the backing of the super-Powers, have clearly become aware that they are isolated in the international arena.

However, the Armenian separatists, having lost all opportunities, have not given up hope of establishing a second Armenian state on the territory of Azerbaijan, and through the holding of the new so-called "presidential elections" in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, are flouting world public opinion and trying to stop the advance of the peace process. However, historic justice and international legal principles cannot be trampled upon. Truth, justice and international law are on the side of Azerbaijan.

These perfidious designs of the Armenian aggressors are nothing other than a provocation which contradicts all principles and norms of international law,

the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the decisions of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits of OSCE and the Constitution and laws of the Azerbaijani Republic. The political leaders of the Republic of Armenia and their apprentices the separatist leaders of the Armenian community in Nagorny Karabakh are through these actions pursuing the objective of nullifying the purposeful activity conducted in the name of peace by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk group of OSCE and all its members.

In connection with the preparation of this notorious provocative act of sabotage, the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan states that the new so-called "presidential elections" planned to be held in the occupied territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic contradict all the principles and norms of international law, and that if these elections are held they can have no legal result.

The Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, addressing all the parliaments of the world and prestigious international organizations, in particular the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk group of OSCE and its members, calls on them to condemn and regard as unlawful the new so-called "presidential elections" planned to be held in the occupied territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic.

Murtuz ALESKEROV
Chairman of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan